(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The National Policy on Education 1986 as revised in 1992 states the resolution of the Government to provide free and compulsory education of satisfactory quality to all children upto 14 years of age before we enter the twenty first century. The Programme of Action (PCA) 1992, to the policy, provides the broad frame work to achieve these policy objectives. Within the framework, the Government has initiated a number of Centrally Sponsored Programme which include Operation Blackboard, Teacher Education, Non Formal Education, and Mid-day Meals Programme.

Cost escalation in gas the based urea project in Oman

268. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2041 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th December, 1995 and state:

(a) whether the cost of the Ammonia/ Urea project is now estimated to be 1127 million dollar as compared to 897 million dollar as per PFR;

(b) justification for this escalation in cost in view of the reply to part [e] of the above referred Unstarred Question;

(c) whether KRIBHCO Board had earlier resolved that operation and maintenance contract of the project would be executed by RCF and KRIBHCO; and

(d) whether the same has been waived now, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) As per the Detailed Feasibility Report, the cost of the Oman India Fertilizer Project is now estimated at US$ 1106 million. The earlier estimate of US$ 897 million was based on preliminary studies. The escalation in the estimated project cost is mainly on account of provision of reserves for debt servicing and increase in financing fees, project management expenses and capitalised interest.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) KRIBHCO and RCF have accepted the proposal of Oman Oil Company that the operation and maintenance [O&M] of the fertilizer plant may be managed by the Joint Venture Company [JVC] while KRIBHCO and RCF second the O&M personnel to the JVC under a Personnel Supply Agreement. KRIBHCO and RCF have also agreed to provide technical services to the JVC under a Technical Services Agreement. KRIBHCO and RCF consider this arrangement to be more advantageous than an O&M contract.

National Plan for Girl Child

269. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any National Plan of Action for the survival, protection and development of the girl child in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also launched any specific scheme to raise the status of the girl child in the country, particularly in the rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) A Scheme for Adolescent